

with leaders like Luther, Wycliffe, Huss, and the Puritan Fathers, freedom would long ere this have circled the globe. For instance, Napoleon Buonaparte, after gorging his country with blood under pretence of establishing the Republic, calmly seized the imperial sceptre and swayed it with as much tyranny as did the Cæsars of old.

There is a mental and moral liberty, without which all other is comparatively useless, surpassing in value the mere outward or physical freedom of action. Lowell says of it—

They are slaves who will not choose
Hatred, scoffing and abuse,
Rather than in silence shrink
From the truth they needs must think;
They are slaves who dare not be
In the right with two or three.

But it can be taken in a wider sense. Human nature without education, without discipline, and without training in the school of self-control, is but a sorry specimen of moral liberty. How few ever reach the perfection of self-government. With some the ruling passion is a love of pleasure; before this shrine they cast their all, and not till too late, when sunk in a morass of sin, do they discover that the mocking goddess is a veritable will o' the wisp, and that life with its precious possibilities is theirs no longer. Some are slaves to their appetites, and some are subject to the desire for gold. Others set up for themselves a grim taskmaster, and place in his hands the knotted lash—"What will people think?" then from one year's end to another they submit to the torture of this all powerful goad; not an act of their existence but is arraigned before the awe-inspiring judge, and scourged until free from anything which Mrs. Grundy might not approve. In all such cases man is what he makes himself, if he has lost his moral liberty it is fairly his own fault; he has been endowed with the power of distinguishing between right and wrong, and with mind and will to keep him in the right, then he alone is responsible when he yields to the thralldom of sin.

E.

EDUCATION.

It has been said, and very truly, that if we cannot acquire an education in Canada it is our own fault. But we would not

limit the statement to Canada; we would say "anywhere." History and the lives of literary men give us numberless instances of people who, contending with fearful odds, have persevered and succeeded in getting a liberal education. If we create in youth a taste for literature, the pleasure it bestows takes the place of those grosser amusements which lead astray the unthinking. A good education cannot, like money and friends, take wings to itself and fly away, and if only sought for the true joy it gives amply repays the seeker.

An illiterate person must of necessity be narrow-minded, because he has neither the desire nor the opportunity to cultivate a wider range of thought, and prejudiced because he has not the capability of looking at any side of a question but his own. Education is either true or false; in other words it is either thorough or superficial. Those whose aim at school is to get through the course of study and merely learn enough to prevent them from appearing idiotic, generally become frivolous butterflies or lazy drones, and if in after times they happen to be thrown upon their own resources for support, nothing remains for them but to take up the situation of an inferior; having wasted the time given them for mental improvement, they can never rise to an honorable and remunerative position.

We sometimes exclaim with impatience when wearied by the monotonous routine of school life, and for the moment wish it were not necessary. The thought should not be of present toil but of future benefit; excellencies are unattainable except as the reward of labor, and one should cheerfully accept the truth of the proverb—there is no royal road to learning. Some people are possessed of the idea that in addition to a smattering of grammar, spelling and arithmetic, a few months at college is all that is needed to complete and polish a person's education. Such students come to the building, enter the very lowest classes, and after scrambling about among the juniors for a term or so, take their leave just as they are beginning to stand upon their feet; they depart fully satisfied that the mere assertion "I have been to college" is sufficient to bear them successfully through life. To such the advice given to a young man who had in some inexplicable way got through a